

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 240

AN ACT

To encourage engagement between the Department of Homeland Security and technology innovators, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Leveraging Emerging
3 Technologies Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. INNOVATION ENGAGEMENT.**

5 (a) INNOVATION ENGAGEMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
7 Security—

8 (A) shall engage with innovative and
9 emerging technology developers and firms, in-
10 cluding technology-based small businesses and
11 startup ventures, to address homeland security
12 needs; and

13 (B) may identify geographic areas in the
14 United States with high concentrations of such
15 innovative and emerging technology developers
16 and firms, and may establish personnel and of-
17 fice space in such areas, as appropriate.

18 (2) ENGAGEMENT.—Engagement under para-
19 graph (1) may include innovative and emerging tech-
20 nology developers or firms with proven technologies,
21 supported with outside investment, with potential
22 applications for the Department of Homeland Secu-
23 rity.

24 (3) CO-LOCATION.—If the Secretary of Home-
25 land Security determines that it is appropriate to es-
26 tablish personnel and office space in a specific geo-

1 geographic area in the United States pursuant to para-
2 graph (1)(B), the Secretary shall co-locate such per-
3 sonnel and office space with other existing assets
4 of—

5 (A) the Department of Homeland Security,
6 where possible; or

7 (B) Federal facilities, where appropriate.

8 (4) OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 30 days after
9 establishing personnel and office space in a specific
10 geographic area in the United States pursuant to
11 paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
12 rity shall inform Congress about the rationale for
13 such establishment, the anticipated costs associated
14 with such establishment, and the specific goals for
15 such establishment.

16 (b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 6 months
17 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
18 retary of Homeland Security shall develop, implement, and
19 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the
20 House of Representatives and the Committee on Home-
21 land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a
22 Department of Homeland Security-wide strategy to
23 proactively engage with innovative and emerging tech-
24 nology developers and firms, including technology-based

1 small businesses and startup ventures, in accordance with
2 subsection (a). Such strategy shall—

3 (1) focus on sustainable methods and guidance
4 to build relationships, including with such innovative
5 and emerging technology developers and firms in ge-
6 ographic areas in the United States with high con-
7 centrations of such innovative and emerging tech-
8 nology developers and firms, and in geographic areas
9 outside such areas, to establish, develop, and en-
10 hance departmental capabilities to address homeland
11 security needs;

12 (2) include efforts to—

13 (A) ensure proven innovative and emerging
14 technologies can be included in existing and fu-
15 ture acquisition contracts;

16 (B) coordinate with organizations that pro-
17 vide venture capital to businesses, particularly
18 small businesses and startup ventures, as ap-
19 propriate, to assist the commercialization of in-
20 novative and emerging technologies that are ex-
21 pected to be ready for commercialization in the
22 near term and within 36 months; and

23 (C) address barriers to the utilization of
24 innovative and emerging technologies and the

1 engagement of small businesses and startup
2 ventures in the acquisition process;

3 (3) include a description of how the Depart-
4 ment plans to leverage proven innovative and emerg-
5 ing technologies to address homeland security needs;
6 and

7 (4) include the criteria the Secretary plans to
8 use to determine an innovation or technology is
9 proven.

10 (c) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-
11 tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements
12 of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using
13 amounts otherwise authorized.

Passed the House of Representatives January 10,
2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

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